

ABSTRACT

**Method of Operating a Lithographic Apparatus or Lithographic Processing Cell,  
Lithographic Apparatus and Lithographic Processing Cell**

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A method of generating a schedule for operation of a machine forming at least a part of a lithographic apparatus or a lithographic processing cell is disclosed. In the method, a plurality of weight factors are received for respective ones of a plurality of qualities affecting the outcome of a lithographic process. An optimum schedule of tasks to be performed to  
10 complete said lithographic process is generated, the optimum schedule being one whose outcome has a maximum value of total quality, where total quality is the sum of the products of the values of each of said qualities and the respective weight factors.